

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Race-Neutral / Race-Conscious Program Definition

Race-Neutral

Race-Neutral measures are activities or programs that benefit and assist all small business equally, including DBEs. Such activities include bonding, insurance and technical assistance.

Race-Neutral DBE Program: The two ¹racial and ethnic groups which make up the Race-Neutral DBE category are:

- Hispanic Americans include persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race.
- Subcontinent Asian Americans include persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands, Nepal or Sri Lanka.

The DBE Race-Neutral Contract Goal is 6.75 percent.

At this time, Hispanic American and Subcontinent Asian American businesses are not included in the race-conscious portion of our program since the Caltrans' Availability and Disparity Study indicated that there is not significant disparity between the percent of available contractors and subcontractors from these groups and the percent of contract dollars awarded to these groups. However, utilization of these businesses does count toward meeting the race-neutral portion of our goal and our overall goal.

Race-Conscious

Race-conscious measures, such as the use of individual contract goals, are those measures and programs that focus on specifically assisting DBEs only. These four groups will be referred to as Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise or UDBEs.

Race-Conscious UDBE Program: The four ¹racial, ethnic and gender groups which make up the Race-Conscious UDBE category are:

- Black Americans (or "African Americans") include persons having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- Native Americans include persons who are American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts or Native Hawaiians.
- Asian-Pacific Americans include persons whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Samoa, Guam, Hong Kong, and other countries and territories in the Pacific.
- Women include women with at least 51 percent business ownership and control of a firm. For the disparity study, firms owned and controlled by minority women were counted as minority-owned firms.

The UDBE Contract Goal is 6.75 percent. Caltrans' total overall DBE Program goal is 13.5 percent.

¹49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26.5.